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**RESPONSE AFTER FINAL  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1731**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: Confirmation No.: 2869  
YANO et al. Art Unit: 1731  
Application No.: 09/926,709 Examiner: M. Alvo  
Filed: December 5, 2001 Attorney Dkt. No.: 103176-00001  
For: ASSISTANT FOR DIGESTING LIGNOCELLULOSE MATERIAL AND METHOD  
FOR PRODUCING PULP

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 3, 2004

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated September 28, 2004, in connection with the above-identified application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the following amendments and remarks.